

(11) **EP 3 828 287 A1**

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION published in accordance with Art. 153(4) EPC

(43) Date of publication: 02.06.2021 Bulletin 2021/22

(21) Application number: 19867659.5

(22) Date of filing: 12.07.2019

(51) Int Cl.: C12Q 1/6883 (2018.01)

C12N 15/113 (2010.01)

(86) International application number: **PCT/CN2019/095667**

(87) International publication number: WO 2020/063034 (02.04.2020 Gazette 2020/14)

(84) Designated Contracting States:

AL AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MK MT NL NO PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR

Designated Extension States:

BA ME KH MA MD TN

(30) Priority: 26.09.2018 CN 201811126537

(71) Applicant: Shanghai Mental Health Center (Shanghai Psychological Counselling Training Center) Shanghai 200030 (CN) (72) Inventors:

• WANG, Tao Shanghai 200030 (CN)

 XIAO, Shifu Shanghai 200030 (CN)

 HE, Haining Shanghai 200030 (CN)

(74) Representative: Stolmár & Partner Patentanwälte PartG mbB Blumenstraße 17 80331 München (DE)

(54) MCI DIAGNOSIS MARKER DUE TO AD AND APPLICATION THEREOF

(57) The present invention relates to a diagnostic markers for MCI due to AD, the marker being plasma miRNA comprising hsa-miR-1185-2-3p, hsa-miR-22-5p, hsa -miR-134-3p, hsa-miR-1909-3p and hsa-miR-107. The present invention also relates to use of the marker and the corresponding kits. The beneficial effects of the present invention are as follows: biomarkers with high diagnostic value for MCI due to AD are first discovered, which breaks through the dilemma of no convenient peripheral plasma diagnostic markers for MCI due to AD, and is conducive to the early diagnosis and early intervention of Alzheimer's disease, commonly known as senile dementia.

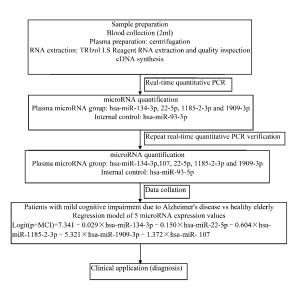


Figure 2

EP 3 828 287 A1

Description

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE TO ANY PRIORITY APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims priority of the Chinese invention patent application with application number 201811126537.7 filed on September 26, 2018, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

15

30

35

40

45

50

55

[0002] The present invention relates to the prodromal phase of Alzheimer's disease, in particular to diagnostic markers, and specifically refers to a diagnostic marker of MCI due to AD and uses thereof.

Description of the Related Art

[0003] Alzheimer's disease (AD), commonly known as senile dementia, is a neurodegenerative disease with neurofibrillary tangles as the main pathological feature formed by the disorder of microtubule structure caused by the deposition of amyloid β -protein (A β) in the brain and highly phosphorylated Tau protein. AD has become a common, frequentlyoccurring and high-burden disease in the elderly. AD is a chronic, non-infectious, and age-related neurodegenerative disease caused by complex causes. In the more than 100 years since the German psychiatrist Alzheimer first reported the disease in 1906, the disease has become the most common type of senile dementia from a rare disease, accounting for about 50% to 70%, and it is one of the four major causes of death in an aging society. Epidemiological studies have shown that the prevalence of the elderly over 60 years old is 3 to 5%, and the prevalence doubles for every 5 years old, up to 20% over 80 years old, and up to 50% over 90 years old. According to conservative estimates, there are currently at least 6 million AD patients in China, and there will be more than 10 million patients by 2020. The burden of AD medical and nursing care is very heavy, the direct and indirect medical costs are very high. For example, the average annual medical care cost of each AD patient in the United States is as high as 50,000 US dollars, which is 3 times than that of the elderly without AD. According to statistics, in 2010, the global medical expenditure for dementia was as high as 604 billion US dollars, accounting for 1% of the global gross national product in the same period. With the acceleration of China's aging, especially the increase in the absolute number of elderly people, the medical care and economic burden caused by AD will become more and more severe. Therefore, to actively carry out early prevention, early diagnosis and early treatment of AD to reduce the burden of medical care is a medical and health and socioeconomic issue that must be resolved in an aging society.

[0004] In the past 20 years, AD diagnostic research has made great progress. Studies have shown that the use of modern diagnosis and treatment techniques, such as brain senile plaque imaging and cerebrospinal fluid pathological marker detection, can detect neurobiochemical and neuropathological changes in the brain more than 20 years before the appearance of obvious clinical symptoms of AD. However, senile plaque imaging detection is very expensive and has no clinical application in China. At the same time, due to traditional concepts and relatively serious invasive operations, cerebrospinal fluid examination cannot be actually used in clinical early diagnosis. Furthermore, brain structure imaging examination cannot be used for early detection, especially a characteristic change of MCI caused by AD, so there is actually no clinically applicable early diagnosis method of clinical biomarkers in China. In 2011, the newly revised diagnostic criteria (NIA-AA) of the National Institute of Aging and Alzheimer's Association of the United States redefined the pathophysiological process of AD and the clinical symptoms caused by it, and formally determined Preclinical AD, mild cognitive impairment due to AD, and dementia due to AD are three different diagnostic criteria. Epidemiological studies have shown that the prevalence of MCI is about 15% to 17%, 10% to 15% progress to AD every year, and the annual incidence of normal elderly people is about 1%. MCI is a high-risk population for early intervention and the best entry point for early preventive intervention.

[0005] In the past 10 years, some therapeutic studies on the pathological mechanism of AD have encountered major setbacks. High-profile drugs including $A\beta$ monoclonal antibodies Bapineuzumab and Solanezumab, and anti-Tau protein drug LMTX III clinical trials have all ended in failure. The above results illustrate the complexity of the pathogenesis of AD, and also suggest that there are huge opportunities in the field of AD pathogenesis research. We have noticed the important role of BACE1 in the pathological splicing process of $A\beta$. In recent years, studies have found that the deposition of $A\beta$ is much earlier than the onset of dementia symptoms. Our research suggests that abnormal genetic regulation of microRNA (miRNA) is the key link of them. hsa-miR is a type of small single-stranded RNA composed of 19-23 nucleotides in eukaryotes. It belongs to the large family of non-coding RNAs and can regulate important small molecules of gene expression at the post-transcriptional level. It is not only abundant in brain tissue, but also stably exists in cerebrospinal fluid, plasma and serum samples, and play an important role in the development of the nervous system and the formation

of synaptic plasticity. hsa-miR is produced from a primary transcript (pri-miRNA), which is processed by RNase III Drosha into a precursor miRNA (pre-miRNA) containing a stem-loop structure, and then under the Dicer (a RNase III), the hairpin-like pre-miRNA is further cleaved in the cytoplasm to produce mature miRNA. These mature miRNAs together with other proteins form the miRNA-protein complex (miRNP). miRNA guides miRNP to reach their target mRNA, and then exerts genetic regulation function.

[0006] Studies have shown that the abnormal function of hsa-miR is related to the initiation and progression of the pathological process of AD. The hsa-miR combines with the 3'UTR of the AD target gene to restrict the post-transcriptional expression by restricting translation initiation or cleaving the target gene. Most studies on the regulation and function of hsa-miR in the occurrence and development of AD take the 3' UTR region of β-site APP cleaving enzyme 1 (BACE1) as the target gene site. The results of cadaveric brain studies indicate that the expression changes of certain hsa-miRs are linked to the pathological pathways of Alzheimer's disease through their targets. In addition, studies have found that BACE1, in addition to cleaving APP to perform its enzymatic function, can also destroy other molecules required for the cell to produce protein kinase A (PKA), a protein in the brain that guides cell metabolism, and damage neuronal functions. Especially in recent years, studies have found that the deposition of AB is much earlier than the occurrence of dementia symptoms, which indicates that $A\beta$ is not only involved in the development process of AD, but also the seed and inducement of AD. The role of hsa-miR in inducing changes in the expression or activity of BACE1 is particularly prominent. Analysis of RNA in brain tissues of AD patients at different stages revealed that the expression of miRNA107 decreased to varying degrees and the expression of BACE1 increased during the course of AD disease, resulting in corresponding pathological changes. This study suggests that miRNA107 can regulate the expression of BACE1 by binding to the 3'UTR region of the target gene BACE1 mRNA, thereby affecting the production of related proteins. In addition, the research results of different researchers focused on the role of miRNAs such as miRNA124, micRNA15, miRNA195, miRNA19, miRNA298, miRNA328, etc. in the pathogenesis of AD, and believed that these miRNAs also partially regulated the pathogenesis of AD.

[0007] Among human biological specimens, blood is one of the samples that is the easiest to obtain, the simplest to operate, the least traumatic, and the patient bears the least risk and pain. Blood is considered to be the most suitable biological sample for screening high-risk populations for AD, early detection, diagnosis, and follow-up of treatment intervention. hsa-miR has been proven to exist in a very stable form in human plasma or serum. Its structure gives it the ability to protect it from the endogenous RNase enzyme activity so that it can be detected and become a stable AD diagnostic plasma marker. The applicant's hsa-miR research results suggest that the expression of several genetic markers hsa-miR in peripheral blood is significantly different between the MCI due to AD and the normal control (Normal Control, NC). The plasma miRNA expression level can be used as a routine method for screening and diagnosing AD to optimize clinical AD diagnosis strategies.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

10

15

30

35

50

55

[0008] The purpose of the present invention is to overcome the above-mentioned shortcomings of the prior art, and provide a diagnostic marker for MCI due to AD and uses thereof that can effectively screen and diagnose AD and optimize clinical AD diagnosis strategies.

[0009] In order to achieve the above objective, one aspect of the present invention provides a diagnostic marker for MCI due to AD, wherein the marker is plasma miRNA comprising hsa-miR-1185-2-3p, hsa-miR-22-5p, hsa-miR-134-3p, hsa-miR-1909-3p and hsa-miR-107.

[0010] The present invention also provides a use of the diagnostic marker for MCI due to AD in the preparation of a diagnostic kit for MCI due to AD.

[0011] The present invention also provides a diagnostic kit for MCI due to AD, wherein the kit for measuring the content of hsa-miR-1185-2-3p, hsa-miR-22-5p, hsa-miR-134-3p, hsa-miR-1909-3p and hsa-miR-107 in plasma.

[0012] Preferably, the kit comprising primers and probes of hsa-miR-1185-2-3p, hsa-miR-22-5p, hsa-miR-134-3p, hsa-miR-1909-3p, and hsa-miR-107.

[0013] Preferably, the kit comprising the internal control has-miR-93-5p.

[0014] Preferably, the formula for calculating the content of hsa-miR-1185-2-3p, hsa-miR-22-5p, hsa-miR-134-3p, hsa-miR-1909-3phsa-miR-107 in plasma measured by the kit is:

$$7.341 - 0.029 \times \text{hsa-miR-} 134-3p - 0.150 \times \text{hsa-miR-} 22-5p - 0.604 \times \text{hsa-miR-} 1185-2-3p - 0.004 \times \text{hsa-miR-} 1185-2-$$

 $5.321 \times \text{hsa-miR-} 1909-3p-1.372 \times \text{hsa-miR-} 107.$

[0015] A method of using the diagnostic kit for MCI due to AD, wherein comprising the steps of:

- (1) extracting total RNA from a sample to be tested;
- (2) using a miRNA reverse transcription kit to perform reverse transcription reaction on a extracted total RNA to obtain a corresponding cDNA;
- (3) performing real-time fluorescent quantitative PCR with the cDNA, and using has-miR-93-5p as an internal control, detection result is expressed as Δ Ct, wherein Δ Ct=Ct microRNA-Ct has-miR-93-5p; and
- (4) processing the result obtained according to a formula:
- $7.341 0.029 \times \text{hsa-miR-} 134-3\text{p} 0.150 \times \text{hsa-miR-} 22-5\text{p} 0.604 \times \text{hsa-miR-} 1185-2-3\text{p} 5.321 \times \text{hsa-miR-} 1909-3\text{p} 1.372 \times \text{hsa-miR-} 107$, and comparing a calculated value with 0.174.
- 10016] The beneficial effects of the present invention are: through extensive literature reading and review, on the one hand, screening of markers from published literature that may have the value of early clinical diagnosis and differential diagnosis of MCI due to AD, on the other hand, through rigorous testing and statistical analysis, a biomarker with high diagnostic value for MCI due to AD was discovered for the first time as a combination of five nucleic acid molecules hsamiR-1185-2-3p, hsa-miR-22-5p, hsa-miR-134-3p, hsa-miR-1909-3p and hsa-miR-107. Through the development and application of microRNA markers and diagnostic kits, it has broken through the dilemma of no convenient peripheral plasma diagnostic markers for MCI due to AD, and is conducive to the early diagnosis and early intervention of Alzheimer's disease commonly known as senile dementia. At the same time, it is hopeful that the discovery of new anti-AD therapeutic drug targets with potential therapeutic value will provide scientific basis and clinical support.

20 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0017]

25

35

45

50

55

5

Figure 1 is a flow chart of the microRNA combinatorial chip screening, training and verification experiment design for identifying target plasma of MCI patients due to AD according to the present invention.

Figure 2 is a diagram of the main method steps for determining the plasma microRNA combination of patients with MCI due to AD in the diagnosis of the present invention.

Figure 3 shows the ROC curve of the logistic regression model, training set and validation set.

30 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0018] In order to be able to describe the technical content of the present invention more clearly, further description will be given below in conjunction with specific embodiments.

[0019] With reference to Figures 1 to 3, the screening and verification of diagnostic marker for MCI due to AD according to the present invention will be specifically described.

I . Research object

[0020] The subjects were 50 elderly cases of MCI due to AD collected in the communities of Changning District and Xuhui District, Shanghai. The control group was healthy elderly people with matching age, sex, and years of education.

- II. Research method
- 1. Chip screening

[0021]

- (1) extract RNA using TRIzol method and purify it with RNasey Mini Kit (QIAGEN). Use NanoDrop ND-1000 to measure the purified RNA concentration, and electrophoresis to detect RNA integrity.
- (2) After the extracted RNA passes the quality inspection, use the miRCURYTM Array Power Labeling kit (Cat # 208032-A, Exiqon) to label the miRNA. After the labeling is completed, hybridize the sample with miRCURYTM LNA Array (v.19.0) (Exiqon) chip, the total reaction volume is 50ul (25ul sample and 25ul hybridization buffer), denature at 95 °C for 2 minutes, and place on ice for 2 minutes. Hybridize with the chip at 56° C for 16-20 hours (hybridization system is Nimblegen Systems, Inc, Madison, WI, USA). After the hybridization is completed, use the Wash buffer kit (Exiqon) to clean the chip.
- (3) Scan the chip using Axon GenePix 4000B chip scanner.

2. The first real-time quantitative PCR verification

5

10

35

[0022] After chip screening, select microRNAs that are significantly down-regulated compared with the control group for real-time quantitative PCR verification. The specific implementation methods are as follows:

- (1) Extract RNA using TRIzol method and purify it with RNasey Mini Kit (QIAGEN). Use NanoDrop ND-1000 to measure the purified RNA concentration.
 - (2) The extracted RNA undergoes a reverse transcription reaction after quality inspection. The total reaction volume is 20ul (total RNA 300ng, reverse transcription specific primer 0.3ul, RNase inhibitor 0.3ul, buffer 2ul, MMLV reverse transcriptase 0.3ul, dNTP2ul, nuclease free water is added to 20ul), reactions were carried out at different temperatures (16°C, 42°C, 85°C) and different times (30 minutes, 40 minutes, 5 minutes). The reverse transcription specific primer information is shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1: MicroRNA reverse transcription specific primer information

15	Gene name	RT primer
	hsa-miR- 93-5p	5 'GTCGTATCCAGTGCGTGTCGTGGAGTCGGCAATTGCACTGGATACGACCTACCT
	hsa-miR- 134-3p	5 'GTCGTATCCAGTGCGTGTCGTGGAGTCGGCAATTGCACTGGATACGACTTGGTG3'
20	hsa-miR-34b- 5p	5'GTCGTATCCAGTGCGTGTCGTGGAGTCGGCAATTGCACTGGATACGACCAATCAG3'
	hsa-miR- 22-5p	5' GTCGTATCCAGTGCGTGTCGTGGAGTCGGCAATTGCACTGGATACGACTAAAGC3'
25	hsa-miR- 1909-3p	5 'GTCGTATCCAGTGCGTGTCGTGGAGTCGGCAATTGCACTGGATACGACCGGTGAGC3'
	hsa-miR- 1185-2-3p	5'GTCGTATCCAGTGCGTGTCGTGGAGTCGGCAATTGCACTGGATACGACATGAGAG3'
	hsa-miR-569	5 'GTCGTATCCAGTGCGTGTCGTGGAGTCGGCAATTGCACTGGATACGACACTTTC3'
30	hsa-miR- 5691	5'GTCGTATCCAGTGCGTGTCGTGGAGTCGGCAATTGCACTGGATACGACGCTTTC3'
	hsa-miR-107	5'GTCGTATCCAGTGCGTGTCGTGGAGTCGGCAATTGCACTGGATACGACTGATAG3'

⁽³⁾ The total system of real-time quantitative PCR amplification system is 10ul, the reaction has 40 cycles, and each reaction is repeated three times. Using hsa-miR-93-5p as an internal control, the test results are expressed as $2^{-\triangle\triangle}CT$, where the smaller the value of $2^{-\triangle\triangle}CT$, the lower the expression level. The primers used for PCR are shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Primer information for real-time quantitative PCR

40	Gene		Annealing	Product length
	name	Bidirectional primer sequence	temperature (°C)	(bp)
45	hsa-miR- 93-5p	GSP:5'GGCAAAGTGCTGTTCGTG3' R: 5'CAGTGCGTGTCGTGGAGT3'	60	65
	hsa-miR- 134-3p	GSP:5'GAACCTGTGGGCCACCTAGT3' R: 5'GTGCGTGTCGTGGAGTCG3'	60	64
	hsa-miR- 34b-5p	GSP:5'GGGGGGTAGGCAGTGTCA3' R: 5'GTGCGTGTCGTGAGTCG3'	60	67
50	hsa-miR- 22-5p	GSP:5'GGGGAGTTCTTCAGTGGCAA3' R: 5'GTGCGTGTCGTGGAGTCG3'	60	60
	hsa-miR- 1909-3p	GSP:5'AACGCAGGGGCCGGGT3' R: 5'GTGCGTGTCGTGGAGTCG3'	60	62
55	hsa-miR- 1185-2-3p	GSP:5'GGGGAATATACAGGGGGAGA3' R: 5'GTGCGTGTCGTGGAGTCG3'	60	66
	hsa-miR- 569	GSP:5'GGGGGGTAGTTAATGAATCCTG3' R: 5'GTGCGTGTCGTGAGTCG3'	60	65

(continued)

Gene name	Bidirectional primer sequence	Annealing temperature (°C)	Product length (bp)
hsa-miR- 5691	GSP:5'GCTTGCTCTGAGCTCCGA3' R: 5'GTGCGTGTCGTGGAGTCG3'	60	62
hsa-miR- 107	GSP:5'GGAGCAGCATTGTACAGG3' R: 5'CAGTGCGTGTCGTGGA3'	60	65

3. The second real-time quantitative PCR verification

[0023] After the first real-time quantitative PCR verification, select microRNAs that expression levels were significantly lower than those of the control group, and add hsa-miR-107, which was previously confirmed to have significantly decreased expression levels in Alzheimer's disease populations, for re-verification and the specific implementation method is the same as above.

III. Research results

5

10

15

20

25

30

35

40

55

[0024] During chip screening stage, the expression levels of hsa-miR-134-3p, hsa-miR-34b-5p, hsa-miR-22-5p, hsa-miR-1909-3p, hsa-miR-1185-2-3p, hsa-miR-569 and hsa-miR-5691 in the MCI group are significantly lower than the normal control group. The specific data are shown in Table 3 below:

Table 3: Differential levels of microRNA expression in the normal control group (NC) and mild cognitive impairment (MCI) groups

	() 9. 33	.,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	
microRNA name	Fold Change	P Value	FDR
hsa-miR-134-3p	0.099	0.362	0.767
hsa-miR-34b-5p	0.225	0.337	0.758
hsa-miR-22-5p	0.369	0.039	0.635
hsa-miR-1909-3p	0.311	0.006	0.592
hsa-miR-1185-2-3p	0.372	0.048	0.642
hsa-miR-569	0.444	0.054	0.642
hsa-miR-5691	0.374	0.016	0.598

[0025] During real-time quantitative PCR verification stage, the expression level of hsa-miR-1185-2-3p, hsa-miR-22-5p, hsa-miR-134-3p, hsa-miR-1909-3p and hsa-miR-107 in the MCI group is significantly lower than the normal control group, the specific data are shown in Table 4:

Table 4: MicroRNA expression levels in NC and MCI groups (2-△△CT value)

	miana DNIA mama	The first time		The second time			
	microRNA name	NC group (n=20)	MCI group (n=10)	P Value	NC group (n=40)	MCI group (n=40)	P Value
45	hsa-miR-134-3p	1.06	0.34	< 0.001	1.43	1.12	0.03
	hsa-miR-34b-5p	0.90	0.92	0.81	-	-	-
	hsa-miR-22-5p	0.92	0.58	< 0.001	1.24	0.91	<0.001
	hsa-miR-1909-3p	0.79	0.35	< 0.001	1.11	0.69	<0.001
50	hsa-miR-1185-2-3p	0.89	0.16	< 0.001	2.17	1.37	<0.001
	hsa-miR-569	0.92	0.67	< 0.001	=	-	-
	hsa-miR-5691	1.07	0.87	< 0.001	-	-	-
	hsa-miR-107	-	-	-	1.52	0.89	<0.001

[0026] ROC curve analysis shows that five microRNAs, hsa-miR-1185-2-3p, hsa-miR-22-5p, hsa-miR-134-3p, hsa-miR-1909-3p and hsa-miR-107, as biomarkers have high diagnostic value for MCI due to AD (AUC is 0.901, sensitivity and specificity are 80.00% and 85.00%, respectively).

[0027] Using the above five microRNAs as independent variables and the five microRNA joint predicted probabilities as dependent variables, linear fitting is performed to calculate the predicted probability value. The value obtained by the calculation model (calculation model 1) is analyzed again by ROC curve, and the result shows that the value obtained by the calculation model still has a high diagnostic value. The AUC is 0.901, the limit value is 0.174, and the sensitivity and specificity are 80.00% and 82.50%, respectively. The results are shown in Table 5 and Table 6.

Table 5: Summary of linear fitting models with five microRNA 2-△△CT values as variables

-2 Log likelihood	Cox & Snell R ²	Nagelkerke R ²
64.407	0.441	0.588

Table 6: Linear fitting model coefficient table with five kinds of microRNA 2-△△CT as variables

Variable name	Non-standardized coefficient		Wals Value	P Value	
variable flame	В	Standard error	vvais value	r value	
constant	7.341	1.843	15.868	<0.001	
hsa-miR-134-3p	-0.029	0.593	0.002	0.961	
hsa-miR-22-5p	-0.150	1.321	0.013	0.909	
hsa-miR-1185-2-3p	-0.604	0.465	1.688	0.194	
hsa-miR-1909-3p	-5.321	1.662	10.255	0.005	
hsa-miR-107	-1.372	0.603	5.171	0.023	

[0028] The calculation model 1 is:

5

10

15

20

25

30

35

40

50

 $Logit(p=MCI)=7.341-0.029 \times hsa-miR-134-3p-0.150 \times hsa-miR-22-5p-0.604 \times hsa-miR-134-3p-0.150 \times hsa-miR-134-3p-0.$

 $1185-2-3p-5.321 \times \text{hsa-miR-}1909-3p = 1.372 \times \text{hsa-miR-}107.$

[0029] Analysis method description: use SPSS 20.0 software package for data analysis. For comparison between the two groups, first perform the homogeneity test of variance. For the two groups of data with homogeneity of variance, use student's t-test for comparative analysis; for uneven variance, the two groups of data were analyzed by Welch correction. P<0.05 was considered as statistically significant. Binary Logistic regression is performed on the data with statistical differences to obtain the predicted probability value, and the predicted probability value is used for subsequent ROC curve analysis. ROC curve analysis is used to evaluate the value of microRNA in the diagnosis of MCI due to AD. The closer the area under the curve (AUC) is to 1, the higher the diagnostic value of this indicator.

[0030] At present, the biological diagnosis of MCI due to AD relies on the expensive PET-CT examination of cerebral senile plaques without domestic intellectual property rights and the invasive lumbar puncture cerebrospinal fluid examination which is not accepted by traditional concepts. There is no convenient and minimally invasive early diagnosis technology of peripheral plasma examination.

[0031] The beneficial effects of the present invention are: through extensive literature reading and review, on the one hand, screening of markers from published literature that may have the value of early clinical diagnosis and differential diagnosis of MCI due to AD, on the other hand, through rigorous testing and statistical analysis, a biomarker with high diagnostic value for MCI due to AD was discovered for the first time as a combination of five nucleic acid molecules hsamiR-1185-2-3p, hsa-miR-22-5p, hsa-miR-134-3p, hsa-miR-1909-3p and hsa-miR-107. Through the development and application of microRNA markers and diagnostic kits, it has broken through the dilemma of no convenient peripheral plasma diagnostic markers for MCI due to AD, and is conducive to the early diagnosis and early intervention of Alzheimer's disease commonly known as senile dementia. At the same time, it is hopeful that the discovery of new anti-AD therapeutic drug targets with potential therapeutic value will provide scientific basis and clinical support.

[0032] In this specification, the present invention has been described with reference to its specific embodiments. However, it is obvious that various modifications and changes can still be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention. Therefore, the description and drawings should be regarded as illustrative rather than restrictive.

Claims

5

20

30

35

40

45

50

55

- **1.** A diagnostic marker for MCI due to AD, wherein the marker is plasma miRNA comprising hsa-miR-1185-2-3p, hsa-miR-122-5p, hsa-miR-134-3p, hsa-miR-1909-3p and hsa-miR-107.
- 2. Use of the diagnostic marker for MCI due to AD according to claim 1 in the preparation of a diagnostic kit for MCI due to AD.
- **3.** A diagnostic kit for MCI due to AD, wherein the kit for measuring the content of hsa-miR-1185-2-3p, hsa-miR-22-5p, hsa-miR-134-3p, hsa-miR-1909-3p and hsa-miR-107 in plasma.
 - **4.** The diagnostic kit for MCI due to AD according to claim 3, wherein the kit comprising primers and probes of hsamiR-1185-2-3p, hsa-miR-22-5p, hsa-miR-134-3p, hsa-miR-1909-3p, and hsa-miR-107.
- 5. The diagnostic kit for MCI due to AD according to claim 4, wherein the kit comprising the internal control has-miR-93-5p.
 - **6.** The diagnostic kit for MCI due to AD according to claim 3, wherein the formula for calculating the content of hsamiR-1185-2-3p, hsa-miR-22-5p, hsa-miR-134-3p, hsa-miR-1909-3p ♣ hsa-miR-107 in plasma measured by the kit is:

 $7.341 - 0.029 \times \text{hsa-miR-} 134-3p - 0.150 \times \text{hsa-miR-} 22-5p - 0.604 \times \text{hsa-miR-} 1185-2-3p - 0.004 \times \text{hsa-miR-} 1185-2-$

- $5.321 \times \text{hsa-miR-} 1909-3p-1.372 \times \text{hsa-miR-} 107.$
 - **7.** A method of using the diagnostic kit for MCI due to AD according to any one of claims 3 to 6, wherein comprising the steps of:
 - (1) extracting total RNA from a sample to be tested;
 - (2) using a miRNA reverse transcription kit to perform reverse transcription reaction on a extracted total RNA to obtain a corresponding cDNA;
 - (3) performing real-time fluorescent quantitative PCR with the cDNA, and using has-miR-93-5p as an internal control, detection result is expressed as ∆Ct, wherein ∆Ct=Ct microRNA-Ct has-miR-93-5p; and
 - (4) processing the result obtained according to a formula:
 - 7.341 0.029 \times hsa-miR-134-3p 0.150 \times hsa-miR-22-5p 0.604 \times hsa-miR-1185-2-3p 5.321 \times hsa-miR-1909-3p-1.372 \times hsa-miR- 107, and comparing a calculated value with 0.174.

8

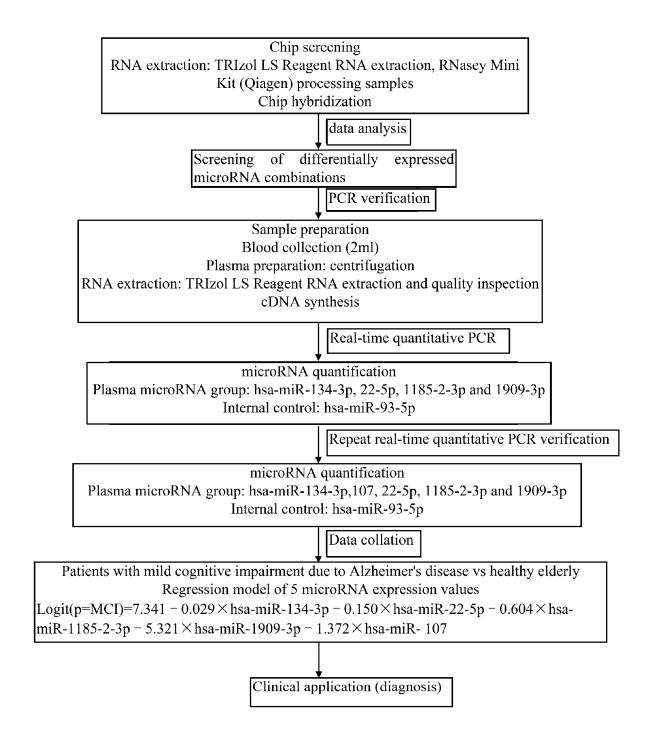


Figure 1

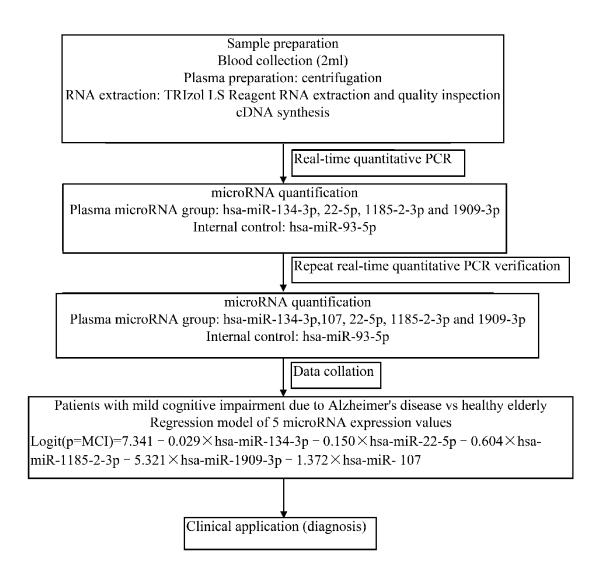


Figure 2

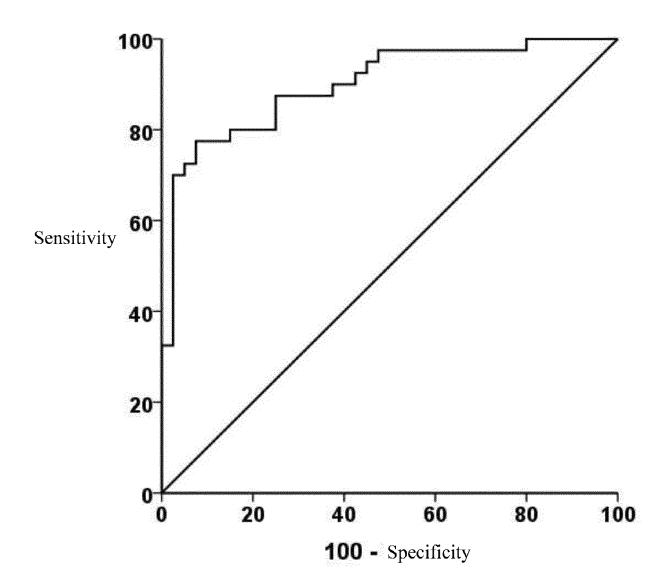


Figure 3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/CN2019/095667

5	A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER C12Q 1/6883(2018.01)i; C12N 15/113(2010.01)i			
	According to	International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both na	tional classification and IPC	
	B. FIEL	DS SEARCHED		
10		ocumentation searched (classification system followed 1/-; C12N 15/-	by classification symbols)	
	Documentati	on searched other than minimum documentation to the	e extent that such documents are included in	n the fields searched
15	Electronic da	ata base consulted during the international search (nam	ne of data base and, where practicable, search	ch terms used)
	PUBM 轻度い	S, VEN, CNTXT, EPTXT, USTXT, WOTXT, CJFD IED, ISI Web of Knowledge, PATENTICS, NCBI Ge 人知功能障碍, mild cognitive impairment, miR, miRl 断, 表达, 荧光定量PCR, real time PCR, ROC, 引物,	nBank, EBI-EMBL: 阿尔茨海默病, AD, A NA, has-miR, 1185-2-3p, 22-5-5p, 134-3p,	Alzheimer disease, MCI, 1909-3p, 107, 芯片, 筛
20	C. DOC	UMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
20	Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where a	appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
25	PX	CN 109055541 A (SHANGHAI MENTAL HEALTH PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELING TRAINING C (2018-12-21) claims 1-7	•	1-7
	Y	杨寰庆 等 (YANG, Huanqing et al.). "阿尔茨海默就 translation: Advances in Research on Non-coding R! 国际检验医学杂志 (International Journal of Labor Vol. 38, No. 6, 31 March 2017 (2017-03-31), p. 737, section 1 and p. 738, section 2.1.5	NA of Alzheimer's Disease)"	1-7
30	Y	CN 104480106 A (THE FIRST HOSPITAL OF HE 2015 (2015-04-01) description, paragraphs [0036]-[0096]	BEI MEDICAL UNIVERSITY) 01 April	1-7
	Y	CN 108277271 A (FAN, YAOFEI) 13 July 2018 (20 claims 1-4)18-07-13)	1-7
35	Y	CN 105648088 A (SHENZHEN UNIVERSITY) 08 claims 1-6, and description, paragraphs [0028]-[1-7
	Further of	locuments are listed in the continuation of Box C.	See patent family annex.	
40	"A" documen to be of p "E" earlier ap filing dat "L" documen	ategories of cited documents: t defining the general state of the art which is not considered particular relevance plication or patent but published on or after the international e t which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is establish the publication date of another citation or other	"T" later document published after the intern date and not in conflict with the application principle or theory underlying the invent document of particular relevance; the considered novel or cannot be considered when the document is taken alone document of particular relevance; the considered movel or cannot be considered when the document is taken alone document of particular relevance; the considered movel or cannot be considered when the document is taken alone.	claimed invention cannot be d to involve an inventive step claimed invention cannot be
45	special re	asson (as specified) t referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other	considered to involve an inventive st combined with one or more other such d being obvious to a person skilled in the a "&" document member of the same patent far	ocuments, such combination art
70		t published prior to the international filing date but later than ty date claimed	,	
	Date of the act	tual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search	report
		25 September 2019	17 October 2019	9
50	Name and mai	ling address of the ISA/CN	Authorized officer	
	CN)	tional Intellectual Property Administration (ISA/ucheng Road, Jimenqiao, Haidian District, Beijing		
55	Facsimile No.	(86-10)62019451	Telephone No.	

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (January 2015)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/CN2019/095667

5	C. DOC	UMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	
	Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
	Y	WO 2016186360 A1 (ANT LABS INC.) 24 November 2016 (2016-11-24) claims 1-13, and embodiments 1-6	1-7
10	Y	WO 2015073972 A1 (DIAMIR, LLC) 21 May 2015 (2015-05-21) claims 1-89, and embodiments 1-5	1-7
	Y	SHEINERMAN, K. S. et al. "Plasma MicroRNA Biomarkers for Detection of Mild Cognitive Impairment" AGING, Vol. 4, No. 9, 30 September 2012 (2012-09-30), p. 590, the abstract	1-7
15	Y	WANG, Tao et al. "The Feasibility of Utilizing Plasma MiRNA107 and BACE1 Messenger RNA Gene Expression for Clinical Diagnosis of Amnestic Mild Cognitive Impairment" J. CLIN. PSYCHIATRY, Vol. 76, No. 2, 28 February 2015 (2015-02-28), p. 135, the abstract	1-7
20	Y	王小林 等 (WANG, Xiaolin et al.). "阿尔茨海默病生物标志物及其在新药研发中的应用 (Biomarkers of Alzheimer's Disease and Their Applications in the Development of New Drugs)" <i>药学进展 (Progress in Pharmaceutical Sciences)</i> , Vol. 40, No. 8, 31 August 2016 (2016-08-31), pp. 566 and 567, section 2.4	1-7
25			
80			
35			
a0			
5			
50			

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (January 2015)

55

International application No.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

5

55

Information on patent family members PCT/CN2019/095667 Patent document Publication date Publication date Patent family member(s) cited in search report (day/month/year) (day/month/year) CN 109055541 21 December 2018 A None CN 104480106 A 01 April 2015 CN 104480106 07 July 2017 CN 108277271 13 July 2018 None A CN 105648088 08 June 2016 None A 10 WO 2016186360 24 November 2016 107849610 27 March 2018 A1CNA 24 October 2018 EP 3299473 A4 19 July 2018 US 2018202997A1JP 14 June 2018 2018515145 A 11 May 2017 KR 101734645 B115 EP 3299473 Α1 28 March 2018 20160135430 KR A 28 November 2016 WO 2015073972 12 July 2017 21 May 2015 ΕP 3071712 A4 A122 September 2016 US 2016273043 A109 June 2016 2014348273 AUA120 105917005 31 August 2016 CN Α 2931082 21 May 2015 CA**A**1 15 December 2016 JP 2016538851 A 3071712 28 September 2016 EP Α1 25 30 35 40 45 50

Form PCT/ISA/210 (patent family annex) (January 2015)

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

This list of references cited by the applicant is for the reader's convenience only. It does not form part of the European patent document. Even though great care has been taken in compiling the references, errors or omissions cannot be excluded and the EPO disclaims all liability in this regard.

Patent documents cited in the description

• CN 201811126537 [0001]